PATENT CLAIMS

1. Colorants for oxidative dyeing of keratin fibers, particularly human hair, based on a developer-coupler combination, characterized in that it contains as the developer at least one 2-hydroxy-5-aminobiphenyl derivative of general formula (I) or a physiologically tolerated, water-soluble salt thereof

wherein

R1 denotes hydrogen, a halogen atom, a C_1 - C_4 -alkyl group, a C_1 - C_4 -hydroxyalkyl group, a C_1 - C_4 -alkoxy group or a C_1 - C_4 -hydroxyalkoxy group;

R2,R3,R4,R5,R6 can be equal or different and independently of each other denote hydrogen, a halogen atom, a cyano group, a hydroxy group, a C_1 - C_4 -hydroxyalkoxy group, a C_1 - C_4 -hydroxyalkoxy group, a C_1 - C_4 -alkyl group, a C_1 - C_4 -alkyl thioether group, a mercapto group, a nitro group, an amino group, an alkylamino group, a dialkylamino group. a trifluoromethyl group, a -C(O)H group, a -C(O)CH₃ group, a -C(O)CF₃ group, an -Si(CH₃)₃ group, a C_1 - C_4 -hydroxyalkyl group, a C_3 - C_4 -dihydroxyalkyl group, a -CH = CHR7 group, a -(CH₂)_p-CO₂R8 group or a -(CH₂)_pR9 with p = 1,2,3 or 4, a -C(R10) = NR11 or C(R12)H-NR13R14 group, or two adjacent R2 to R6 groups form an -O-CH₂-O- bridge;

R7 denotes hydrogen, a hydroxyl group, a nitro group, an amino group, a -CO₂R12 group or a -C(O)CH₃ group;

R8,R10 and R13 can be equal or different and independently of each other denote hydrogen or a C₁-C₄-alkyl group;

R9 denotes an aminø group or a nitrile group;

R11, R14 and R15 can be equal or different and independently of each other denote hydrogen, a hydroxyl group, a C_1 - C_4 -alkyl group, a C_1 - C_4 -hydroxyalkyl group, a C_3 - C_4 -dihydroxyalkyl group or a radical of formula

R12 denotes hydrogen, an amino group or a hydroxyl group, provided that the compound of formula (I) does not present a center of symmetry.

- 2. Colorant according to Claim 1, characterized in that R1 denotes hydrogen.
- 3. Colorant according to Claim 1 or 2, characterized in that R1 denotes hydrogen and four of the R2 to R6 groups denote hydrogen while the fifth group is hydrogen, a methyl group, an amino group, a hydroxyl group, a methoxy group, a C_1 - C_4 -hydroxyalkyl group or a C_1 - C_4 -hydroxyalkoxy group.
- 4. Colorant according to Claim 1 or 2, characterized in that all R1 to R6 groups denote hydrogen at the same time.
- 5. Colorant according to Claim 1, characterized in that four of groups **R2** to **R6** are hydrogen while the fifth group is hydrogen, a methyl group, an amino group, a hydroxyl group, a methoxy group, a C_1 - C_4 -hydroxyalkyl group or a C_1 - C_4 -hydroxyalkoxy group.
- 6. Colorant according to one of Claims 1 to 5, characterized in that the 2-hydroxy-5-aminobiphenyl derivative of formula (I) is selected from among 2-hydroxy-5-aminobiphenyl, 2,4'-dihydroxy-5-aminobiphenyl, 2-hydroxy-5-amino-4'-(2"-hydroxy)biphenyl, 2.4'-dihydroxy-5-amino-2'-methylbiphenyl, 2-hydroxy-5-amino-4'-(2"-hydroxyethyl)biphenyl, 2-hydroxy-5,4'-diaminobiphenyl or a physiologically tolerated salt thereof.
- 7. Colorant according to one of Claims 1 to 6, characterized in that it contains the 2-hydroxy-5-aminobiphenyl derivative of formula (I) in an amount from 0.005 to 20.0 wt%.
- 8. Colorant according to one of Claims 1 to 7, characterized in that it has a pH of 6.5 to 11.5.
- 9. 2-Hydroxy-5-aminobiphenyl derivatives of formula (Ia) or a physiologically tolerated, water-soluble salt thereof

wherein

R1 denotes hydrogen, a halogen atom, a C_1 - C_4 -alkyl group, a C_1 - C_4 -hydroxyalkyl group, a C_1 - C_4 -alkoxy group or a C_1 - C_4 -hydroxyalk ϕ xy group;

R2,R3,R4, R5, R6 can be equal or different and independently of each other denote hydrogen, a halogen atom, a cyano group, a hydroxyl group, a C_1 - C_4 -alkoxy group, a C_1 - C_4 -hydroxyalkoxy group, a C_1 - C_6 -alkyl group, a C_1 - C_4 -alkyl thioether group, a mercapto group, a nitro group, an amino group, an alkylamino group, a dialkylamino group, a trifluoromethyl group, a -C(0)H group, a -C(0)CH₃ group, a-C(0)CF₃ group, an -Si(CH₃)₃ group a C_1 - C_4 -hydroxyalkyl group, a C_3 - C_4 -dihydroxyalkyl group, a -CH=CHR7 group, a -(CH₂)_p-CO₂R8 group or a -(CH₂)_p-R9 group with p = 1,2,3 or 4, a -C(R10) = NR11 group or a C(R12)H-NR13R14 group, or two adjacent R2 to R6 groups form an -O-CH₂-O- bridge;

R7 denotes hydrogen, a hydroxyl group, a nitro group, an amino group, a CO₂R12 group, or a -C(O)CH₃ group;

R8,R10 and R13 can be equal of different and independently of each other denote hydrogen or a C_1 - C_4 -alkyl group;

R9 denotes an amino or nitrile group;

R11,R14 and R15 can be equal or different and independently of each other denote hydrogen, a hydroxyl group, a C_1 - C_4 -alkyl group, a C_1 - C_4 -hydroxyalkyl group, a C_3 - C_4 -dihydroxyalkyl group or a radical of formula

R12 denotes hydrogen, an amino group or a hydroxyl group, provided that the compound of formula (I) has no center of symmetry and that the R2 group does not denote hydrogen or a hydroxyl group.